

The present invention is directed to systems and methods for providing an enhanced auditory behavior to a graphical user interface. As shown in Figs. 5 and 6, an exemplary embodiment may have a state table in which a sound effect is associated with a transition from one display state to another (specification at page 8, lines 1-17).

At least the foregoing features are broadly encompassed by claim 53, which recites, among other features, identifying a sound effect using a state table, said sound effect being associated with a transition from a first display state to a second display state.

Claims 53 and 54 stand rejected as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,049,328 (Vanderheiden). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Examiner asserts at page 3 of the Office Action that the Vanderheiden patent discloses a sound effect being associated with a transition from a first display state to a second display state. Applicants respectfully disagree with the ultimate conclusion of the Examiner. The Vanderheiden patent does not disclose display states.

The Vanderheiden patent discloses a touch screen system for people with disabilities (abstract). For example, a visually impaired person may drag a finger or a stylus pen across a touch screen without visually perceiving the display state (col. 6, lines 27-34). The disclosed system augments the display with audio clues as to the location of the touch point (col. 6, lines 52-54). Accordingly, the Vanderheiden patent discloses a touch screen system in which audio clues are touch point driven, not visually driven.

Further, the Vanderheiden patent in effect teaches that the display states cannot change state with the changes in the audio clues, because a separate "access button 20" is necessary to confirm the audio based touch-screen selection (col. 9, lines 50-52). The "access button 20" is a fixed-position button which confirms a touch-screen selection (see 20 in Figs. 1 and 10). The intended users of the touch screen system are visually impaired and require an "access button" confirmation, but not an audio sound effect confirmation upon a display state transition.

Thus, independent claim 53 is allowable. Claim 54 depends from independent claim 53 and recites further advantageous features which further distinguish over the document relied upon by the Examiner.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicants consider the application to be in condition for allowance and respectfully request notice thereof at an early date. The Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned at the below-listed number if, in the Examiner's opinion, such a call would aid in the examination of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

BURNS, DOANE, SWECKER & MATHIS, L.L.P.

Date: February 1, 2005

By: 

Richard J. Kim  
Registration No. 48,360

P.O. Box 1404  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1404  
(703) 836-6620